BENGALURU, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 25 | Humidity 19% Partly sunny Sensex 78,918 | Nifty 24,450 | Gold 1,61,675 | Silver 2,68,569 | Dollar 91.93 | Euro 107.22 | GBP 123.27

From 1994, when the city just had 1 all-women's police station, we have come to 2026 when across the state there are 36 such stations. Bengaluru is going to get more such establishments that are proving to be safe spaces for women in distress

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH HER

Women officers handle everything from ground duties to administration in various ranks

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Priyadarshini Ishwar Sanikopp, ACP of Cubbon Park subdivision, starts her day much like any other woman. She starts with exercise, then takes on the role of a mother by getting her seven-year-old child ready for school, before reporting to duty on time and carrying out her responsibilities as a police officer.

Despite her demanding schedule, she makes it a point to never miss dinner at home, even if it is late. Like Sanikopp, Bengaluru city police today have 2,590 female police officials assisting in various duties from ground to administration in various ranks.

According to Commissioner of Police Seemanth Kumar Singh, there is no discrimination in law enforcement roles, whether in traffic, cybercrime, or civil police stations. "In sensitive cases that require a careful approach, women officers

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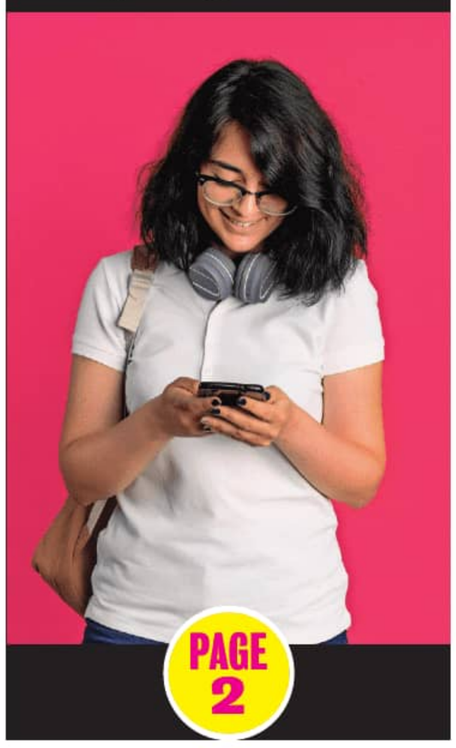
SCREEN EFFECT

Bengaluru records highest average teen screen time at 6.5 hours a day, surpassing other cities



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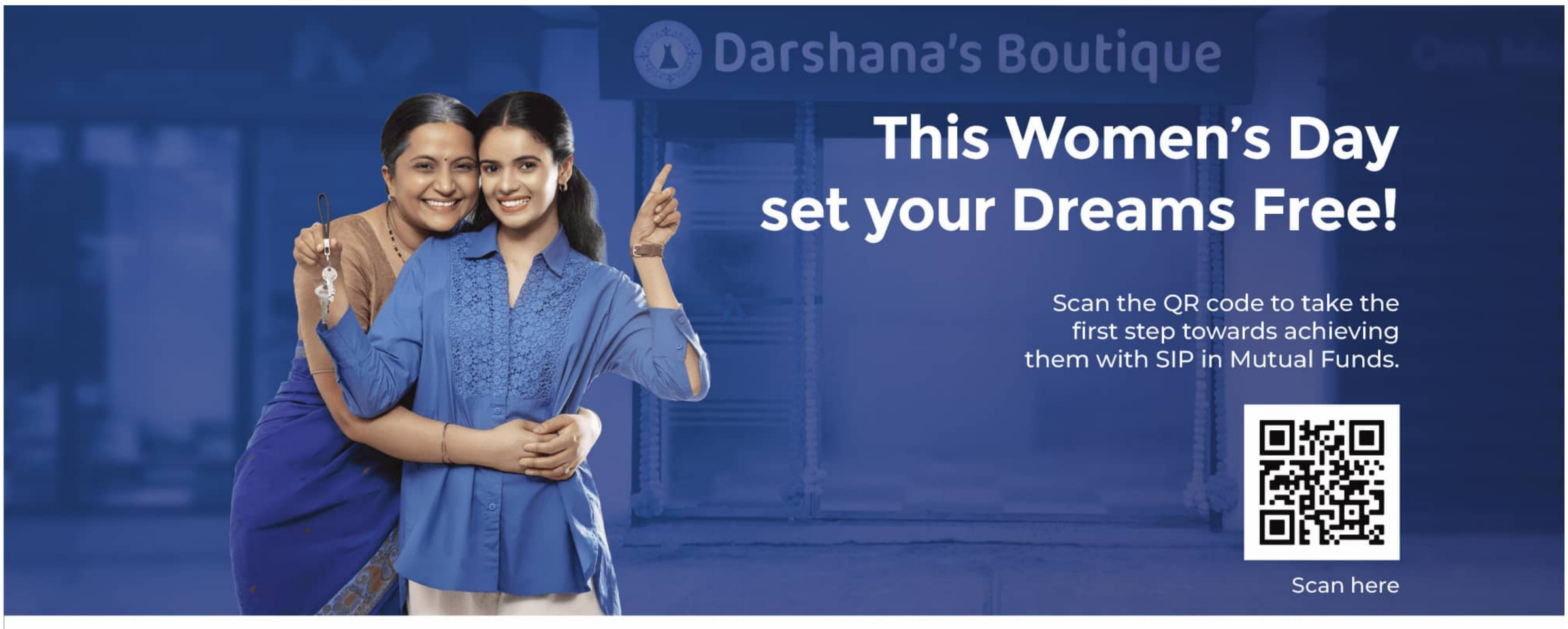
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THINGS TO DO

01 Divine feminine

Heritage Beku will mark International Women's Day with a special morning performance. Hindustani vocalist Mowna Ramachandra will present compositions celebrating feminine strength and devotion, while dancer-actor Deepti Sudhindra will open the programme with two expressive abhinaya pieces on the sacred feminine.
Where: Cubbon Bandstand, Ambedkar Veedhi;
When: March 8, 8 am

02 Holi harmonies

Ekatvam, an initiative of the Entrust Foundation, is hosting the Holi Music Fest 2026. The festival's final day on Sunday will feature Carnatic vocal duets by Sanjana Meenakshi and Vishruthi Girish, followed by renowned sisters Ranjani and Gayatri, accompanied by leading instrumentalists.
Where: Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi;
When: March 8, 5 pm to 9 pm

03 Vedic visions

Internationally recognised visual artist Dr Akhter Husain is presenting Vedic Inspirations, a solo exhibition featuring 25 mixed media works. Blending digital imaging with natural materials such as mineral dust and semi-precious stones, the artworks explore India's spiritual heritage through a contemporary visual language.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram;
When: March 8

04 Ancient meets modern

Experience the sublime melodies of the santoor with Rahul Sharma leading a 35-piece chamber orchestra conducted by Samuel Tamarit Otero of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice.
Where: Maanikya Hall, Jayamahal Main Road;
When: March 18, 8 pm

05 Gentle pause

ArtFlute presents an online exhibition this Women's Day exploring rest as presence, listening, and intuitive making by contemporary Indian artists.
Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com)
When: March 13 to April 10

Screen fervour beats exam fever

Bengaluru teenagers top metro cities in device usage during board examinations, raising alarms among guardians over digital habits affecting studies

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Many students stay glued to phones late into the night, raising concerns about sleep and exam focus

Survey shows heavy night usage, frequent phone checks, social media browsing, growing anxiety, reduced sleep, strained family interaction during crucial academic season

A recent survey conducted over a month starting from mid-January has revealed that teenagers in Bengaluru are spending the highest amount of time on screens among major Indian metro cities during the board examination period. The findings come from insights collected through the Child Online Protection (COP) App, highlighting growing parental concerns about digital habits among students.

According to the report, Bengaluru recorded the highest average teen screen time at approximately 6.5 hours per day, surpassing other major cities. Delhi NCR followed closely with around 6.3 hours daily, while Mumbai reported an average of 6.1 hours, and Chennai showed slightly lower usage at about 5.8 hours per day.

The city-wise breakdown also revealed a significant proportion of teenagers spending extended hours on their devices. In Bengaluru, about 71% of teens reported spending more than five hours per day on screens, the highest among the cities surveyed. Delhi NCR recorded 69%, Mumbai 66%, and Chennai 60% of teenagers crossing the five-hour mark.

The broader report highlights that 89% of Indian parents worry about teen screen time during examinations, reflecting widespread concern about how digital habits may affect students' focus, sleep, and mental well-being.

Data from the study suggest that without parental limits, teenagers spend an average of 3 hours and 47 minutes daily on their devices during the exam period. However, the use of parental control tools reduced screen time to around 90 minutes per day, representing a drop of over 50% and contributing to improved sleep patterns.

The survey also found that peak device usage occurs between 10 pm and 1 am, with teenagers unlocking their phones 110 to 130 times a day on average. Around 62% of teens reportedly use social media or entertainment apps before bedtime, a habit linked to reduced sleep and higher fatigue during exams.

Parents participating in the survey also pointed to behavioural changes associated with excessive screen time. Common concerns included increased anxiety, peer pressure, irritability, and reduced family interaction. Additionally, 71% of parents believe screen time increases exam-related stress, while one in three parents said they struggle to enforce digital boundaries without causing conflict at home.

Sandeep Kumar, founder of the COP app, said: "Board exams represent a particularly sensitive phase for both students and parents. While digital tools remain essential for learning, unmanaged screen exposure can significantly affect concentration and emotional well-being. Parents today are not seeking digital bans, but rather balanced and structured systems that help children perform better while preserving trust at home."

Interestingly, parental anxiety during exam season is not limited to screen exposure alone. Geo-fencing alerts are among the most frequently triggered notifications on the COP platform, indicating that parents are also closely monitoring their children's physical movement and safety, particularly during long study hours, coaching classes, and late evenings.

Dr Arun Kumar, senior consultant psychiatrist at Cadabams Hospitals, said: "Excessive screen time during exams can significantly affect a child's cognitive and emotional functioning. Prolonged exposure to screens, especially late in the evening, can disrupt sleep cycles by suppressing melatonin production, which in turn impacts concentration, memory consolidation, and overall academic performance. Constant notifications and digital stimulation also make it harder for the brain to sustain deep focus, which is essential during exam preparation. Parents should approach this with guidance rather than strict restriction. Creating structured study schedules with designated screen breaks, encouraging device-free time before bedtime, and modelling healthy digital habits at home can help children maintain balance. Open conversations about responsible screen use are often more effective than simply imposing rules."

The report highlights that while smartphones and digital devices are increasingly part of students' daily lives, structured parental controls and healthier digital habits could significantly reduce screen exposure and improve well-being during crucial academic periods.

Schools asked to explain SSLC registrations dip

With the SSLC examinations set to begin on March 18, a decline in the number of students registered for the exam has been noticed in several schools under the Bengaluru North Zone. Data show a clear gap between the number of students admitted to Class 9 in the 2024–25 academic year and those who have registered for the SSLC examination in 2025–26. Following this, Bengaluru North Zone-2 Block Education Officer Lathamani has directed schools to submit a detailed report explaining the reasons for the drop in registrations. Schools have also been asked to provide nominal roll copies of students registered for SSLC Exam 1, including those appearing privately, along with written explanations.

The data indicate that at least 10 schools in the zone have recorded a noticeable fall in student numbers from Class 9 to Class 10. For instance, Karnataka Public School in Hebbal had 171 students in Class 9 but only 129 registered for the SSLC examination, a difference of 42 students. Government High School in Sante Beedhi, Yeshwanthpur, reported a drop from 75 to 46 students, while Karnataka Public School in Seshadripuram saw a decline from 45 to just 16 students. Similar gaps were seen in Karnataka Public School, Jalahalli (127 to 108), Government High School at IISc (70 to 54), Government High School in Palace Guttahalli (48 to 33), Government High School in Prakash Nagar (33 to 20), Government Urdu High School in Munawar Mohalla (22 to 14), Government High School in Srirampuram (30 to 23), and Government High School on 8th Cross, Malleswaram (47 to 44). Officials are now examining whether the drop is due to migration, dropouts, or other reasons. While the Block Education Officer has confirmed that schools have been asked to explain the discrepancy, officials from the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board said they will review the matter to understand the reasons behind the directive. **–BMB**

West Asia war hits Gokarna tourism

The ongoing conflicts in West Asia have begun affecting tourism in coastal Karnataka, particularly in Gokarna, which attracts a large number of foreign visitors. After the earlier decline caused by the Russia–Ukraine war, tensions involving Iran, Israel and the United States have created fresh uncertainty in the tourism sector. Many Israeli tourists staying in Gokarna have already returned home, and the number of visitors from Russia and Israel, who form a major share of foreign tourists in the region, has reduced. Tourists from European countries usually travel to India through Middle Eastern routes such as Dubai, but the conflict has created travel concerns.

According to tourism data, India received 99.51 lakh foreign tourists in 2024 and 69.80 lakh visitors till October 2025, of whom about 6.6 per cent travelled to Karnataka, with many preferring coastal destinations such as Gokarna. Tourism operators warn that if the conflict continues, rising fuel prices, higher travel costs, and economic losses in war-affected countries could further reduce tourist arrivals and impact the tourism sector next year. **–BMB**

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Fixing drain, breaking road: Banjara Road in limbo

Incomplete drain work on Banjara Arch Road leaves debris, open drain, traffic congestion, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and nearby residents

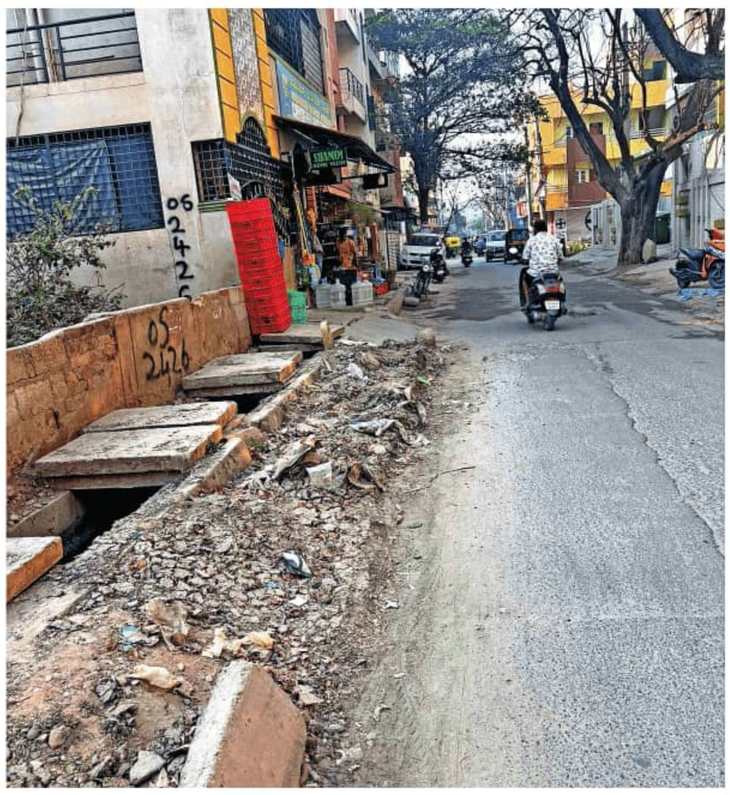
Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Banjara Layout and surrounding areas were initially happy when the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) authorities took up the development of the drain on Banjara Arch Road. They expected the work to be completed within a week. However, the work remains incomplete even after a month, and the concrete and stone slabs kept along the roadside are causing inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists.

Residents said what began as an effort to resolve drain issues has now turned into a major public inconvenience, leaving both pedestrians and motorists struggling to use the road. According to them, slabs covering the drain were removed after repeated complaints that the drain was choked with silt and debris. After the slabs were taken out, the work was left incomplete, with rubble, dust and the open drain creating serious safety and health concerns.

Mohammed Shafi, social activist and President of the RKBR Association, pointed out that even before the drain work began, walking on the road was difficult because of footpath encroachments and the lack of proper pedestrian space. "Now, with the slabs removed and debris dumped along the roadside, the situation has become far worse. Earlier people were already struggling to walk because the footpaths were encroached. Now, slabs on the drain were removed and kept on the road thus making it tough for pedestrians to walk on the road," said Mohammed Shafi.



The condition of Banjara Arch Road and drainw

> **"Traffic jams have become routine on this road during peak hours. I appeal to the authorities to fix this problem without further delay**
>
> –A resident

He said the space between the drain and the road is now filled with broken concrete pieces, construction debris and loose soil. "Bad stench emanating from stagnated dirty water in the drain is causing discomfort to residents and shop owners nearby. The constant dust from the dug-up stretch has become a health hazard for children and senior citizens," he said.

Residents also said motorists are finding it difficult to commute on the road due to silt and the concrete or stone slabs kept on the road. "Traffic jams have become routine on this road during peak hours. I appeal to the authorities to fix this problem without further delay," said a resident.

Meanwhile, BECC Assistant Executive Engineer Arpitha said the drain development work will be completed in a few days. "We will take up asphalting of this road shortly. All the problems will be fixed soon," the assistant executive engineer said.

Karnataka's debt mountain grows with new borrowings

Rising debt concerns grow as Karnataka proposes ₹1.32 lakh crore borrowing while revenue losses from GST rationalisation strain state finances

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The debt burden of the Karnataka government is expected to rise further, with the state proposing fresh borrowings of ₹1.32 lakh crore in the 2026–27 budget. According to estimates presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the total outstanding debt of the state could reach 8,24,389 crore by the end of March 2027. The government has maintained that the borrowings remain within the limits set under the fiscal responsibility framework, though concerns continue over the steady increase in the state's debt levels.

During the current financial year (2025–26), the government borrowed about ₹1.16 lakh crore. The Medium Term Fiscal Policy statement for 2025–29 had earlier projected a gradual reduction in borrowings over the next three years, estimating fresh debt at around ₹76,466 crore. However, the latest budget proposes borrowings of ₹1.32 lakh crore, significantly higher than earlier projections, reflecting mounting fiscal pressures.

Borrowings rise sharply despite fiscal discipline claims by government

One of the key factors cited is the rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax rates, which reportedly caused a revenue loss of about ₹10,000 crore for the state this year. Officials estimate that the loss may exceed ₹15,000 crore in the coming year. Apart from excise revenue, the state has also experienced slower growth in collections from other tax sources, according to finance department officials.

Because of these pressures, the government has increased borrowing beyond earlier projections. At the same time, officials say the borrowing level still falls within acceptable fiscal limits. The budget has also set modest increases in tax collection targets for the coming year, reflecting caution amid economic challenges.

> **For the Commercial Taxes Department, the revenue target has been raised from ₹1.20 lakh crore last year to ₹1.25 lakh crore this year, an increase of ₹5,000 crore**

For the Commercial Taxes Department, the revenue target has been raised from ₹1.20 lakh crore last year to ₹1.25 lakh crore this year, an increase of ₹5,000 crore. By the end of February, the department had collected ₹1,00,462 crore, and reaching the original target remains uncertain even with additional collections in March.

Meanwhile, the excise revenue target has been raised from ₹40,000 crore to ₹45,000 crore. Revenue from stamps and registration has been increased from ₹28,000 crore to ₹29,000 crore, while the motor vehicles tax target has been revised from ₹15,000 crore to ₹15,500 crore. Among these sources, the government appears to be relying largely on excise revenue, with limited expectations of major increases from other tax streams.

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Parking chaos
Koramangala

Vehicles, including those belonging to police personnel, are allegedly parked in violation of rules near Sony Signal on Koramangala Main Road, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Issue resolved
Jayanagar

Following its publication in this column, authorities have cleared the footpath encroachment in Jayanagar 3rd Block.

Streetlight risk
Nagappa Street

Residents have raised safety concerns after a lorry damaged a BESCOM streetlight pole on Nagappa Street in Gandhinagar ward, urging immediate replacement to prevent accidents.

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295 fined in anti-smoking drive in Bengaluru

In a bid to enforce anti-tobacco laws and curb smoking in public spaces, the North Division Police in Bengaluru conducted a special drive across all 13 police station limits from the evening of March 6 until late night, continuing into the early hours of March 7. During the operation, police registered 40 cases under the COTPA Act and fined 295 individuals for smoking in prohibited public places. Police teams carried out surprise inspections at locations where smoking is banned and checked shops for illegal display of cigarette and beedi advertisements. The drive was conducted under guidance of the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner and led by DCP BS Nemagouda. —BMB

Bulldozers or biodiversity? Malleswaram picks trees

Citizens urge GBA to protect 21-acre Mysore Lamps land as deemed forest, arguing convention centre would worsen parking crisis and destroy remaining green space

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Malleswaram have opposed the state government's proposal to build a world-class convention centre on the 21-acre land owned by Mysore Lamp Works Limited, a public sector undertaking in Malleswaram that shut down in 2003.

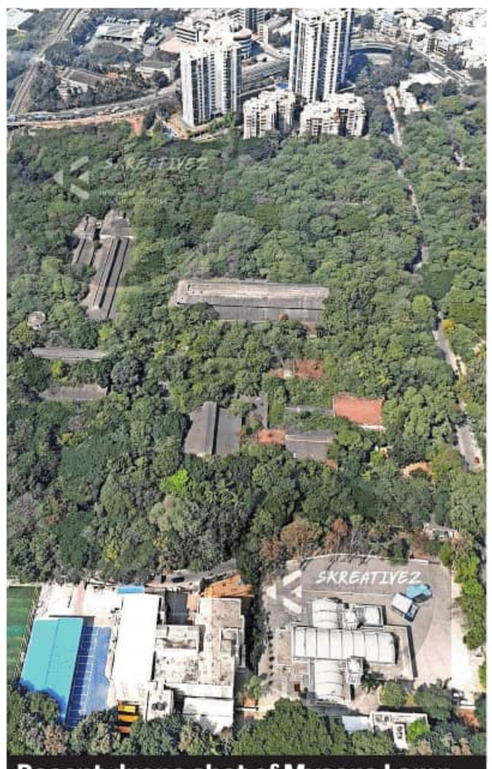
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the proposal on March 6 during the state budget session. The CM said the project will be implemented under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Residents say the land, which has a large number of trees, is the only major green space in the neighbourhood since the conversion of Raja Mills land into Mantri Mall.

"We approached the Greater Bengaluru Authority a few days ago and requested that the land be turned into a green lung space, considering Malleswaram does not have any parks. A big green patch such as this would help improve air quality and also the groundwater table," said Preeti Sunderajan, a resident.

A group of citizens from the locality recently approached the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on the matter. They urged the authority to consult residents and other citizens to explore the possibility of declaring the Mysore Lamps land as a public green space or deemed forest and dedicating it to the well-being of the city's residents.

"We met the West City Corporation Commissioner and requested that the land be restored as a biodiversity park. However, we are yet to hear from them. We believe that the existing green coverage could allow the space to be designated as a deemed forest," said another resident.



Recent drone shot of Mysore Lamp Works Ltd taken by a citizen

> **The least the government should have done is to conduct a public consultation before announcing the project in the budget session**
> — Preeti Sunderajan, Malleswaram resident

Locals argued that the 21-acre land parcel should be treated as a forest, citing a Supreme Court order issued in 1996.

"The SC, while hearing a pan-India case on the status of forests, then clarified that all government land parcels of an area of two hectares and above having at least a density of 50 naturally grown trees per hectare of gbh of 30 cm and above should be considered as a forest," reads the request letter submitted to the GBA.

Residents also say Bengaluru has already lost several notified forest areas in north Bengaluru, including the Peenya plantations, Mallathahalli reserve forests of 285 acres, Hebbal reserve forest and Jarakabande reserve forests. Mysore Lamps land is one of the last remaining green lungs in the area and should therefore be protected, they added.

"It is frequented by those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. We have also seen Slender Loris in the area. The land in question has been kept under lock and key for more than two decades and razing it down without conducting a biodiversity survey and tree enumeration might cause tremendous loss. Moreover, parking is already an issue in Malleswaram. With the proposed convention center, it will be a nightmare," said Rajiv Ulpe, a resident.

Residents also point to a citizen's walk organised by the Malleshwaram Swabhimana Initiative in 2010, which observed dense green cover inside the factory premises and more than 100 trees with significant girth.

Residents have also raised concerns about the lack of public consultation before the project announcement.

"An aerial shot of the area, taken a couple of years back, shows a dense tree canopy on the land. A couple of months back, a group of citizens went to inspect the land, but we were not allowed inside. The least the government should have done is to conduct a public consultation before announcing the project in the budget session. We citizens form an important stakeholder in deciding the fate of the land since it is in a residential locality," Sunderajan added.

Lokayukta raid uncovers assets worth ₹3 crore

Officials from Karnataka Lokayukta Police conducted searches on Saturday in connection with a disproportionate assets case against a government officer in city. Officials said assets identified in case are valued at around ₹3.08 crore.

Searches were conducted on Friday at four locations linked to accused, including residence, office and houses of relatives, after complaints said he had assets beyond his income.

The accused has been identified as Dalesh AL, Range Forest Officer with BDA. Officials found immovable assets including three sites, two houses, a commercial building and 17 acres 20 guntas agricultural land estimated to be worth ₹2.70 crore. They also seized cash, jewellery and vehicles worth ₹48.85 lakh. —BMB

Dog urination sparks heated apartment clash

A dispute over a pet dog triggered a scuffle between residents of an apartment complex in Varthur, prompting police to register complaints from both sides and begin an investigation. Police said the incident occurred at Brigade Utopia apartment after a resident, Tarun Arora, brought his pet dog to a walking and exercise area used mainly by senior citizens. Some elderly residents objected to the dog being there. Arora later filed a complaint at Varthur Police Station alleging harassment. A woman filed a counter-complaint accusing him of threats. Police are examining CCTV footage. —BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

RETURN OF STARLINGS

Our reader shares a striking sight of Chestnut-tailed Starlings gathered at Sarakki Lake after many months. Seen taking off and landing together in tight flocks, these birds create a lively spectacle in the sky. Feeding mainly on insects and fruits, the starlings also play an important role in maintaining the balance of the local ecosystem.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Bengaluru rail doubling nears finish, promises faster suburban connectivity

Baiyappanahalli–Hosur double line reaches 86% completion while Yeshwantpur–Channasandra corridor progresses slower

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The 48-route kilometre (RKM) railway double line project connecting Baiyappanahalli and Hosur has entered its final phase, with overall progress reaching 86 per cent. The parallel double line work between Yeshwantpur and Channasandra, however, has achieved only 55 percent completion so far, according to official sources from the Bengaluru Division of the South Western Railway.

The doubling project aims to ease congestion caused by single-line crossings, reduce travel time for passengers and workers, and boost regional economic activity. The responsibility for executing the project was handed over to the Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (K-RIDE) in 2020. Of the total stretch, 14 RKM of double line has already been commissioned and opened for train operations, while the remaining work on the Baiyappanahalli–Hosur section is targeted for completion by February 2027.

An official said that, as part of the project, the 3.522-RKM Bellandur Road–Carmelaram block section and the new Huskur station yard were commissioned in November. A new double track has been laid between Bellandur Road and Carmelaram, and double line operations have begun on the 14-RKM stretch from Heelalige to Bellandur Road. The upgraded Bellandur Road station now has five railway lines and two 600-metre-long high-level platforms. Passenger amenities include a concrete approach road from Varthur Road, seating benches, drinking water facilities and a subway for movement across platforms.

Officials added that six platform shelters measuring 48 m x 8 m each have been constructed, along with a new G+1 station building covering 672 square metres and equipped with lift facilities. Other infrastructure works include a road underbridge and improvements to facilitate connectivity towards Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal.

The Yeshwantpur–Channasandra double line project, spanning 21.7 RKM, remains midway with 55 per cent progress and is scheduled for completion by March 2027. No section under this stretch has been commissioned yet. The project received administrative approval in 2018 and was transferred to K-RIDE in June 2020. While the sanctioned cost was ₹498.73 crore, cumulative expenditure until 2025–26 has reached ₹656.63 crore.

Major engineering works under the broader project are nearing completion. Construction of major bridges is 96 percent complete, while work on large bridges stands at 80 per cent. As many as 101 minor bridges are almost completed, with 98 per cent progress reported. Formation work for track laying is largely finished, and station works at four locations are 98 percent complete.

Once completed, the Baiyappanahalli–Hosur and Yeshwantpur–Channasandra double lines are expected to ease rail traffic across key corridors linking Bengaluru City, Krishnarajapuram and Banaswadi, strengthening commuter and freight movement across the region.

Commuters navigate the platform under covered shelters, part of infrastructure improvements including expanded platforms and enhanced passenger amenities at upgraded stations

DID YOU KNOW?

A small figurine known as the Adorant, discovered in a German cave in 1979 and dating back about 40,000 years, contains intriguing sequences of carved notches and dots. The figurine, made of mammoth ivory and depicting a lion-human hybrid, was created by the Aurignacian culture, among the earliest modern humans to establish a distinct culture in Europe. Similar markings appear on many other artifacts from this culture.

New research analysing more than 200 artifacts from caves in southwestern Germany suggests these markings were not merely decorative.

Researchers identified repeated "sign types" such as dots, lines, crosses, stars and notches. A computational study found that these signs were used selectively and followed consistent patterns, indicating they carried information passed down across generations.

For example, cross-shaped marks appeared only on tools and animal figurines, not on human figurines.

The study measured the information density of these sign sequences and found it comparable to proto-cuneiform, an early writing system that emerged in Mesopotamia around 3300 BC. — Reuters

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PIB debunks doctored video of Rajnath Singh extending support to Israel during West Asia conflict

THE CLAIM: Pakistani propaganda accounts circulated a manipulated video falsely showing Defence Minister Rajnath Singh supporting Israel's attack on Iran and endorsing the escalating conflict in West Asia.

FACT: Press Information Bureau debunked the doctored clip, confirming Rajnath Singh made no such remarks and that the original video discussed a completely unrelated topic.

PIB fact check on Tuesday debunked the digitally manipulated video of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh circulated online by Pakistani propaganda accounts, falsely claiming that he made remarks supporting Israel's attack on Iran.

The PIB fact check refuted the doctored video and shared the original clip in which Rajnath Singh is talking about a completely different topic.

PIB stated that Rajnath Singh has made no such statement in support of the conflict and urged people to be aware of the manipulated videos shared deliberately to mislead the public as part of Pakistan's ongoing misinformation campaign against India.

India has advocated peace and stability as tensions in the West Asia region rise following the killing of the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei by Israel and the US.

In response, Iran retaliated by launching ballistic missiles and drones at US assets and allies across the region, including Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan, further widening the conflict in the Middle East and heightening risks for civilians and expatriates alike.

United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said that US forces carried out sustained operations targeting key Iranian military infrastructure, including facilities linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

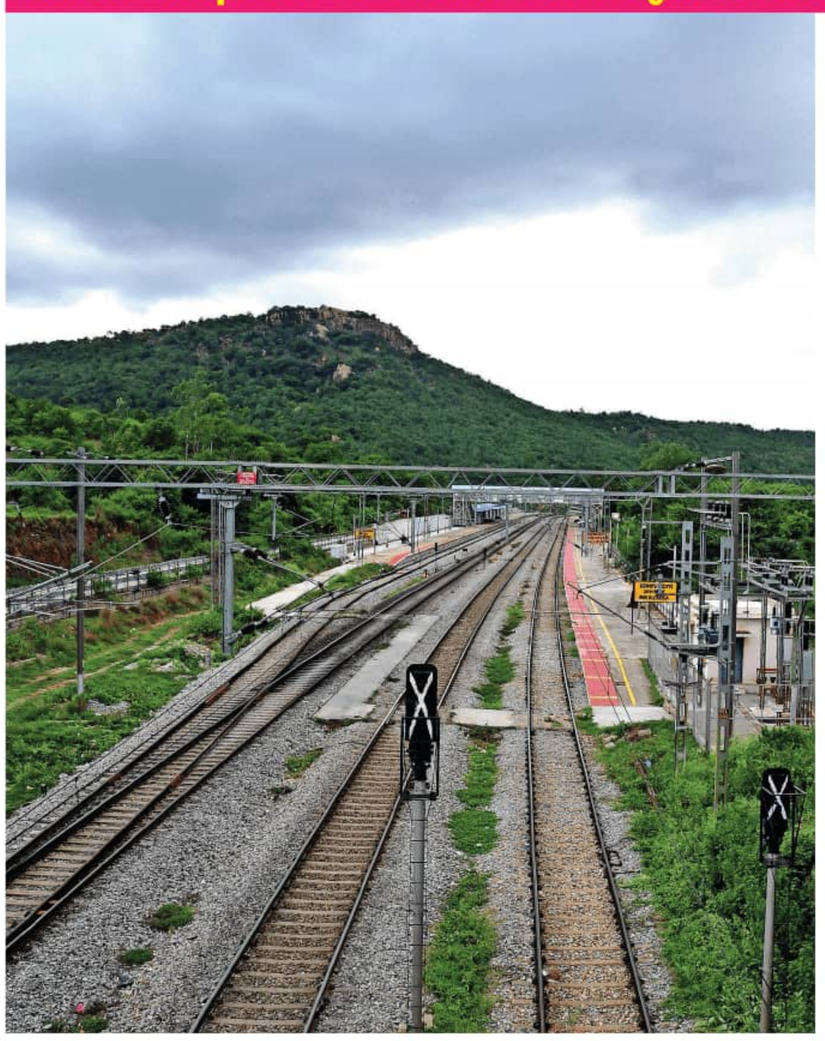
In a post on X, CENTCOM said, "US forces have destroyed Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps command and control facilities, Iranian air defence capabilities, missile and drone launch sites, and military airfields during sustained operations. We will continue to take decisive action against imminent threats posed by the Iranian regime."

Separately, Al Jazeera reported that Iran claimed to have launched a "massive missile and drone" attack on the US air base in Bahrain. Iran's IRGC said it destroyed the main command building of a US air base in Bahrain during a drone and missile attack early Tuesday. It said that 20 drones and 3 missiles struck the Sheikh Isa base, also setting fuel tanks on fire.

The scope of the conflict continues to widen, with the Gulf States now drawn into it. — ANI

All aboard the she-express

Women keep South Western Railway on track as nearly 3,500 employees steer operations, engineering, safety and services daily



Vasudha Zora
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In light of International Women's Day, the South Western Railway (SWR) is celebrating its 3,496 women employees, who make up 9.5 per cent of its total workforce of 38,000. These women power operations across multiple departments, ensuring the efficient and safe running of rail services.

As per the latest data from SWR, the Medical Department has the highest number of women employees at 893, followed by 480 engineers and 346 personnel managing daily operations. The Electrical Department has 332 women employees, while 320 women work in the Commercial unit as of 5 March 2026.

The data also show that 265 women are involved in the Operations unit, while 192 work in Stores, followed by 164 women in the Security unit. General Administration has 143 women railway officials, while the Accounts Department has 137. The Mechanical Department has 92 women employees and the Audit unit has 17, all of whom form part of SWR's workforce.

At present, 78 women hold gazetted officer positions, while 3,418 are in non-gazetted roles, reflecting growing representation. SWR focuses on skill development and regularly upgrades the capabilities of its women employees. Women are also given opportunities to head important positions within SWR that were previously male-dominated.

> **Prominent administrators including divisional chiefs guide planning, budgeting, safety initiatives while representing growing presence across male-dominated fields**

According to Priya, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (Sr DOM), Bengaluru Division: "Indian Railways has never discriminated against its women employees and has always given them the choice and preference to work in any department. In fact, since the railways is a very large organisation that functions almost round the clock, some women prefer not to opt for very late working schedules as they have several family responsibilities."

Speaking to BM reporter, Priya said women and girls should never play the 'lady card'. Instead, when they are given responsibility in a particular position, they should identify with the role with integrity, honesty and proper time management. She added that in the railways there are many women who work night shifts with aplomb and focus, as passenger safety and the nation's credibility are involved.

She also applauded the younger generation of Indian girls and women who diligently balance societal demands and expectations and are achieving success in various fields. Girls and women should focus on education and economic independence at all stages of life, irrespective of their background, she said.

SWR also highlighted women leaders such as Shobhana Gupta, PCSTE heading the Signal and Telecommunications Department, and Ramaah Deviie, PFA overseeing financial planning, budgeting and expenditure control.Other prominent women officers include Bela Meena, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) in Hubballi; Harshita and Priya, Senior Divisional Operations Managers (Sr DOM) of the Mysuru and Bengaluru divisions; Nivedita Balaraddiyavar, Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) for the Bengaluru Division; Reshma, Senior Divisional Safety Officer (Sr DSO) for the Mysuru Division; and Uma Sharma, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (Sr DPO) for the Bengaluru Division.

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Wishing everyone a very happy International Women's Day

Arming the state against cyber crime

A one-day national conference organised by the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR) in collaboration with the Criminal Investigation Department, Infosys Foundation and the Data Security Council of India discussed the measures taken to curb cyber crime.

After inaugurating the CIDECODE 3rd Annual Cyber Crime Investigation Summit Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Saturday that the government is strengthening investigation systems and expanding specialised cyber policing units across Karnataka.

"Karnataka is not just a state; it is a global brand. When the world looks at Bengaluru, it sees the future of innovation," he said, adding that the government is committed to ensuring strong cyber security for citizens. The minister said 43 Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police stations have been established across districts and major cities to tackle cyber offences and collect digital evidence efficiently. He added that specialised cyber units equipped with advanced technology and trained personnel are being strengthened to deal with emerging threats. Parameshwara noted that cyber crimes are borderless and constantly evolving, ranging from financial fraud and cryptocurrency misuse to dark web–based networks and data breaches.

Speaking at the summit, MA Salim said the platform plays a crucial role in strengthening India's fight against cybercrime. He noted that CIDECODE has grown into a significant forum where investigators, technology experts, and industry partners come together to collaborate and improve the nation's cybercrime investigation capabilities.

Officials said that since its inception in 2019, CCITR has trained over 62,000 personnel from the police, judiciary, prosecution and various other agencies, playing a significant role in strengthening the country's cybercrime investigation capabilities.

At the inaugural session, the minister released two CCITR research reports Cryptocurrency Forensics and Smartwatch Forensics and announced the launch of the CIDECODE Tech Hackathon and Cyber Law Ideathon to encourage students to develop innovative solutions to cybercrime challenges. The summit brought together over 150 senior police officers from Karnataka and 60 officers from other states, along with experts from government, industry, and international organisations to discuss emerging cyber threats and investigative strategies. **BMB**

Row over UAS Raichur written tests

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A recruitment exam for non-teaching posts at UAS Raichur has triggered confusion after results were withdrawn and candidates allege inconsistencies between official notification and question paper instructions

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is an autonomous state agricultural university (SAU) and it is supposed to be transparent and efficient in conducting written examinations for various posts.

However, the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is depending on University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru for conducting examinations for teaching and non-teaching posts due to reasons best known to the Vice Chancellor of UAS, Raichur and UAS, Bengaluru.

The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur issued a notification on July 10, 2023 for recruitment to various non-teaching posts. However, the written examination was conducted only after nearly two-and-a-half years.

According to recruitment norms of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), written tests or competitive examinations for Group C posts must consist of two papers carrying 200 marks each, with negative marking of 0.25 marks for every wrong answer.

However, the cover page of the question booklet for the examination clearly stated in serial number six that there would be no negative marking, which appears to be a violation of the prescribed norms.

The written examinations were conducted by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. Tests for the posts of technical assistants and programme assistants (lab technician and computer science) were held on January 17, 2026, while examinations for farm manager and typist/computer operator posts were conducted on January 19.

The results were announced on the UAS, Bengaluru website on March 2. However, in a surprising outcome, none of the 267 candidates who appeared for the examination secured the minimum qualifying marks of 60 per cent out of 200.

Several candidates alleged that the universities did not follow the DPAR norm of applying negative marking of 0.25 marks for each wrong answer, even though it was mentioned in the recruitment notification.

Soon after the results were published, they were removed from the UAS, Bengaluru website for reasons that have not been officially explained. However, candidates had already downloaded the results and are now confused about why the authorities withdrew them.

A candidate who appeared for the examination, requesting anonymity, said the instructions in the question booklet clearly mentioned that there would be no negative marking. "Based on this instruction, candidates attempted all the questions. If negative marking is applied now as mentioned in the notification, it will unfairly affect the scores of candidates," the candidate said.

When contacted, UAS Raichur Vice-Chancellor Dr M Hanumanthappa said the final list of selected candidates would be ready by Monday. "We are holding discussions on the issue. The examinations were conducted at UAS, Bengaluru as per the government's directive to ensure transparency," he said.

When asked whether the authorities would apply the negative marking norm, the Vice-Chancellor said the matter would be discussed before a final decision is taken. Meanwhile, candidates remain uncertain about how the already announced results may be modified.

Safe City project, Pink Hoysalas and more...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have been handling investigations exceptionally well. Having more women in the force helps ensure better and better policing," he said.

Between 2014 and 2016, reports highlighted severe staff shortages at the station, with only 16 personnel in place against a sanctioned strength of 35, making it difficult for the unit to function effectively. As of late 2025, women account for about 8.9% of the Karnataka State Police, while the state government has set a target of increasing their representation to 25%. However, Commissioner Singh said the department currently has around 20% vacancies, which will be filled gradually, with women forming about 20% of the force.

According to reports, the Halasuru Gate Women Police Station, the single dedicated unit set up in 1994, has evolved into a broader system of specialised policing for women in Bengaluru.

Over the 32 years, these stations have been handling cases ranging from domestic violence and harassment to dowry-related disputes, often serving as both complaint centres and counselling centres. The stations faced challenges such as the absence of women constables to register complaints. The system has since expanded significantly. A second station was opened in Basavanagudi, initially called the Thyagarajanagar All Women Police Station, followed by the East Zone Women's Police Station in Shivajinagar in 2017. By 2021, Karnataka had established 36 all-women police stations.

In September 2023, the government further announced the formation of six additional women's police stations. According to Joint Commissioner (Administration) Kuldeep Kumar Jain, a letter has been written to the government requesting the establishment of three more women's police stations in Bengaluru which is still under process and awaiting sanction.

Women's safety initiatives

As the city expanded and awareness about women's rights grew, the number of complaints also increased significantly. To strengthen safety measures for women, the city police has introduced initiatives to strengthen women's safety, including the dedicated helpline 1090, Hoysala patrols, Safe Connect through the KSP App, 112 emergency services, Neravu Kendras, and Rani Chennamma Pade units who spreads awareness covering two to three schools every week training self defence moves. A fleet of 51 GPS-enabled Pink Hoysala patrol vehicles responds to women-related emergencies. Under the Safe City Project, 50 Safety Islands with AI-enabled CCTV and direct communication to the command centre have been installed. The Suraksha app enables SOS alerts with video and GPS. Over 7,500 CCTV cameras under Nirbhaya Fund projects strengthen surveillance. Parihara, with city police, also provides free skill development and empowerment training for women.

Jain said the Parihara Centre was set up to address complaints and provide counselling to those involved. Earlier, most cases were handled by a single unit where disputes were first addressed through counselling, and if resolved, the matter was closed. If issues persisted, cases were taken forward with the consent of both parties. About two years ago, the system was decentralised, with Parihara Centres established across all eight city police divisions, each staffed with two to three counsellors depending on the workload.

To celebrate International Women's Day, a special Women's Monthly Parade was held this Saturday at the CAR Central Parade Ground, where the Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, received the Guard of Honour.

ACP Sanikopp recalled marching in the front line during Karnataka State Police Flag Day in 2024, and also in multiple events, symbolising women officers breaking barriers and leading with strength in policing. She says she never felt the need to break barriers because she never perceived them. With the support of her son, husband and mother-in-law, along with encouraging senior officers at work, she feels motivated. Describing her subdivision as a family where everyone is cooperative, she adds that success comes down to setting priorities. "In the end, it's not about appearance but about your knowledge, capability, and believing in your own strength," she said.

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*Reference: https://ncdalliance.org/women-and-ncds

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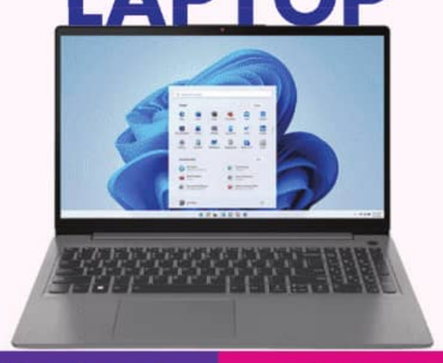

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personal

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I, Mohamed Sauod S/o Pachapeer R/o No 175, Maseedi Road, Kothagere, Kunigal, Tumkur-572130 Have Changed My Name to Mohammed Soud for All Purposes.

I, Balakrishna R/o #306,2nd Floor, Mahaveer Flora Kommaghatta Rd, Kangeri-560060 have changed my name to B.S Balakrishna.

I Manjula.C, W/o O.Sridhar have changed my name to C.Archana vide affidavit dated 5-4-2012 before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bangalore

I Nisar Ahmed R/o 2L,No 4th Street Anthony Nicholas Street Cross, Ashok Nagar B'lore-560025 have changed my name to Nisar Ahmed Khayoom

I, Shakeel Ahmed Khan Basheer S/o B.Ziaulla Khan R/o OZ Station Road, Shivajinagar B'lore-560051 have changed my name to B.Z Shakeel Ahmed Khan.

I SABEENA TAJ W/O Fayaz Pasha R/@ No 19 4th Crs Conservancy Lane Munireddy Palya Bangalore 560006 has changed my name to SABINA TAJ for all purposes

I, I Noore Shaheen R/O no 10 4th crs Achit Nagara Soladevanahalli, B'lore 560090 Have changed my name Shahin Ali to I Noore Shaheen for all future purposes.

I FIYAZ PASHA S/O Abdul Razack R/@ No 19 4th Crs Conservancy Lane Munireddy Palya Bangalore 560006 has changed my name to FAYAZ PASHA for all purposes

I, Tasmiya Aamira Begum W/o B.Z Shakeel Ahmed Khan R/o OZ Station Road, Shivajinagar B'lore-560051 have changed my name to Tasmiya Ameera Begum

I Shakeel Ahmed Khan B Z R/o OZ Station Road, Shivajinagar B'lore-560051 have changed my minor son name from Abdulla Zoyan Ahmed Khan Zilulla Shakeel to Abdullah Zoyan Ahmed Khan Basheer Ziaulla.

I Ashok Kumar Agarwala bearing passport no. Z3732814, R/o #7002 Sobha Silicon Oasis, Doddanagamangala Road, Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Agarwal for all purpose

I, Priyanka Sachin R/o No 23 Gokul Nivas 6th cross Shiv ananda Nagar Jnanajyothi Nagar Bengaluru 560056 have changed my to Priyanka Hanumanthappa for all purposes.

I Prajakta Pathak W/O Sankalp Shamkant Pathak R/O Nyanappanhalli, Bengaluru have changed my name from PRAJAKTA KUNTE to PRAJAKTA PATHAK for all future purpose

I, Pranamya Malige D/o Giddappa Malige R/o No4, Udaya Layout, 2nd Stage, Behind Pavithra Vidya Mandira, Sulikere, Bengaluru - 560060 Have Changed My Name to Pranamya Malige Giddappa for All Purposes.

I, Mohammed Matheen Khan R/o No 26, Ward No 23, Tippu nagara, Tippu Masjid Main Road, Ramanagar-562159. Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Mominna Khanum to Momeena Khanum for All Purposes.

I, Manjunatha Hegganahalli Nanjundappa R/o 6/3, 2nd cross, Dasarahalli Corporation, Hegganahalli, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Manjunath Hegganahalli Nanjundappa. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

LOST & FOUND

I, Sharfudeen A, residing at S-01, 2nd Floor, Al Barkath Appartments, Maruthinagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068, have lost Diploma Certificate No. 000275 from Board of Technical Examinations, Bangalore on 06.03.2026 at Bangalore. Finders please contact: 9611965034

 # Award-worthy role
Rashmika says 'Bhooma Devi is close to my heart' as she bags Best Actress at Gaddar State Awards

The good, bad and ugly

Sesha 2016
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Pradeep Arsikere
- **ACTORS** John Kaippalill, Archana Kottige, Pramod Shetty, Devaraj, Dain Davis, Siddharth Siva, Sreejith Ravi, KS Sridhar, Shobhraj, Yash Shetty
- **Duration** 117 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Pradeep Arsikere has chosen a relevant topic that shows the good and bad among police for his directorial debut. The movie explores how some police inspectors stoop to any level to get money and how some others with kind hearts remain helpless. It explores how higher police officers try their best to keep the media in the dark. Most of the filming of the movie was held in rain and at night and these scenes add value to the movie. The film leaves some questions of the plot unanswered though. And some of the scenes portraying the brutal slaying of policemen and torture methods used at the police station may be tough for all to stomach.

The movie begins with a scene set around a tense night at Pushpagiri Police Station, on Karnataka-Kerala border, on August 6, 2016. Some of the policemen are seen rushing to Mysuru for Dasara bandobast duty. Assistant Sub-Inspectors Antony (Pramod Shetty) and Geetha (Archana Kottige) and a few police constables remain in the police station. At this juncture, Sub-Inspector Das (John Kaipalill) enters the station. Later, the Sub-Inspector receives information on the kidnapping of ASI Antony. The killer not only kidnaps the ASI but also informs the police station about it and sets a deadline to answer his queries before beheading the ASI. Later, ASI Geetha also gets killed in a similar manner. Meanwhile, the director introduces a flashback to narrate how ASIs Das and Geetha and SI Das were responsible for killing a school girl. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to the corrupt and vicious Sub-Inspector Das.

The movie does not have songs but the background score is superb and music director Poornachandra Tejasvie deserves appreciation. Cinematographer RS Anandakumar has also done a good job.

John Kaippalill, as a corrupt and ruthless sub-inspector, is at his best. Archana Kottige plays a different role. Actors are supposed to play all types of characters but it is not clear what has made veteran actor Devaraj agree to play such an insignificant role. Pramod Shetty, Yash Shetty, KS Sridhar have provided good support. Shobhraj tries to create some comedy with his funny dialogues and gestures. Veteran character artiste Honnavalli Krishna has acted well.

The movie is worth a watch for those who crave suspense crime thrillers. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Same old story

Majestic 2
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Ramu S
- **ACTORS** RBharath Kumar, Samhita Vinya, Shruthi, Malashree, Kote Prabhakar, and Petrol Prasanna
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 137 minutes

Director Ramu S tries to explore anti-social activities in and around the Majestic area in the city with this film. Though titled Majestic 2, this film is not a sequel to Majestic that was released more than two decades ago. But the plot of the movie is jaded. One mystery is there is no understanding of why Malashree appears abruptly in a song sequence. She appears in the beginning of the song and disappears without any trace dancing with Bharath Kumar and junior artistes.

The item song – Sheddige Hogona Baa - is an impediment and adds no value to the film. Picture this: the heroine asks the hero to meet her at a panipuri stall but in the very next scene the hero is seen dancing with a woman who invites him to accompany her to a nearby shed. Villains, played by Kote Prabhakar and Petrol Prasanna, look not only aged but also tired throughout the movie. The reason why the villain wants to embarrass the protagonist is also not convincing.

The movie begins with a prison officer advising Maridasa (Bharath Kumar), who is being released from the prison, to stop anti-social activities and focus on leading a happy and dignified life. However, Maridasa attacks Balarama (Kote Prabhakar), a rogue operating in Kalasipalya area. Meanwhile, Sathya aka Sakre (Petrol Prasanna) decides to eliminate Karidasa.

At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback narrating how Maridasa, a bright student, was compelled to work at a tea stall and how he fell in love with Preethi (Samhita Vinya) and how he was compelled to kill a rowdy for misbehaving with Preethi. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Maridasa and Preethi.

Bharath Kumar, who makes debut as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie, has to improve a lot to continue acting. He looks stoic throughout the movie. Samhita Vinya has made an attempt to prove her acting skills. She has acted well in the climax. Veteran actress Shruthi has provided good support.

Background score is not up to the mark.

The movie is worth a watch only if you like mindless action movies.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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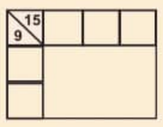
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

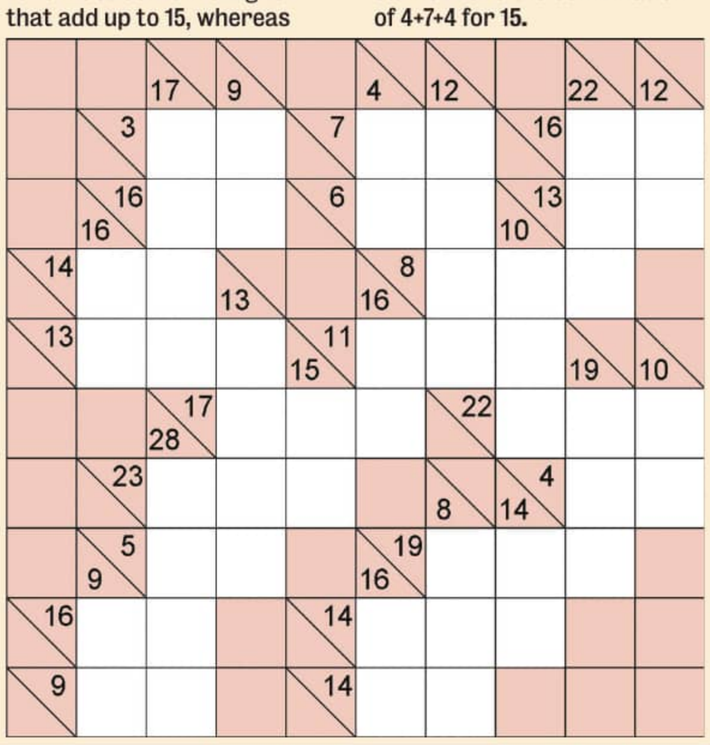
You have two numbers. When 4 is added to both numbers their ratio is 1:4. When 8 is subtracted from both the numbers, the ratio is 1:8. What are the two numbers?

Kakuro

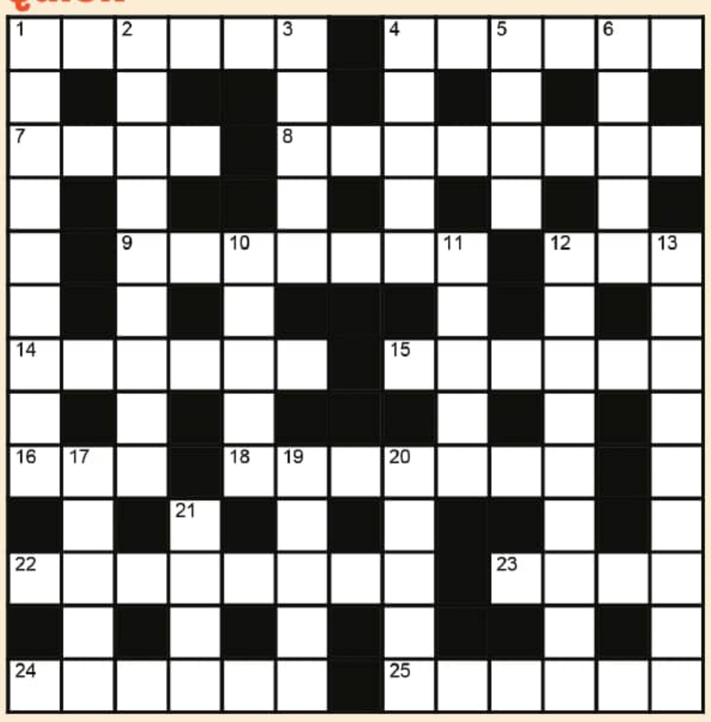
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Existing in fact (6)
4 Come what may (6)
7 Retained or preserved (4)
8 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (8)
9 Tearing violently (7)
12 Lock opener (3)
14 Pulling with the help of a rope (6)
15 More just? (6)
16 Comparative ending ? (3)
18 Made of clay (7)
22 Brief joke (3-5)
23 Tributary of Ganges (4)
24 Rarely (6)
25 Narrow escape (6)

DOWN

1 River that crosses paths with the South Pennar river at Nandi Hills (9)
2 Of the highest quality (3,6)
3 Receive enthusiastically? (3,2)
4 Set in rows (5)
5 January to December (4)
6 Foot joint (5)
10 Copper coins (5)
11 Grind (5)
12 Ex-India and Baroda wicket-keeper (5,4)
13 Standard of comparison? (9)
17 Sesame street character (5)
19 Per ___: yearly (5)
20 Grows weary (5)
21 Very happy (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS N

PUTV SUFNTEZV CZZKC'E YZ EIZ WGVXE EIGCJ PUTV XZZ GC EIZ FUVCGCJ HCK EIZ RHXE EIGCJ PUT XZZ HE CGJIE.

Linemaro

If you were a fruit you'd be a fineapple

Mindchow

Depth of friendship does not depend on length of acquaintance

Joke of the day

What to polar bears eat for lunch? Ice berg-ers!

Loop

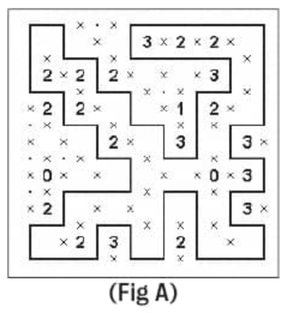
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

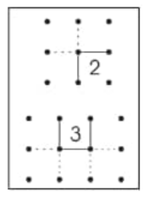
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

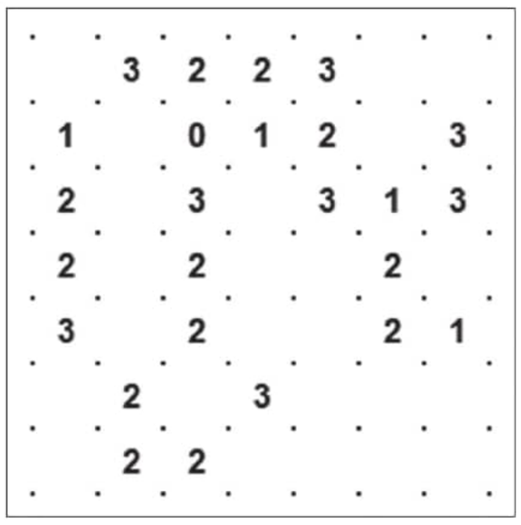
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



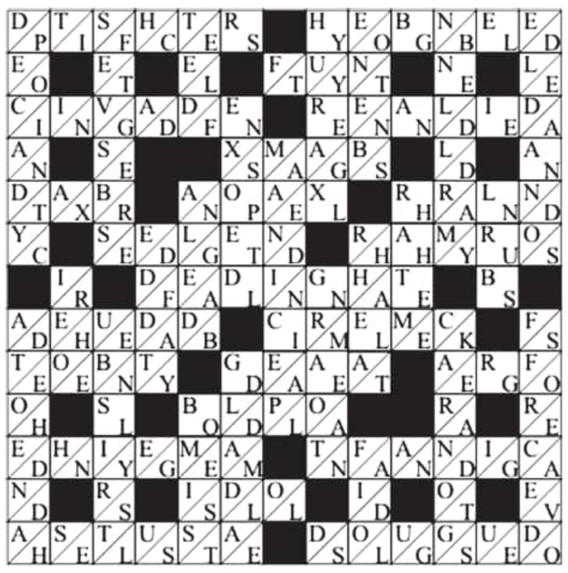
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



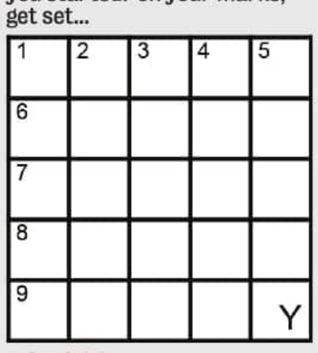
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

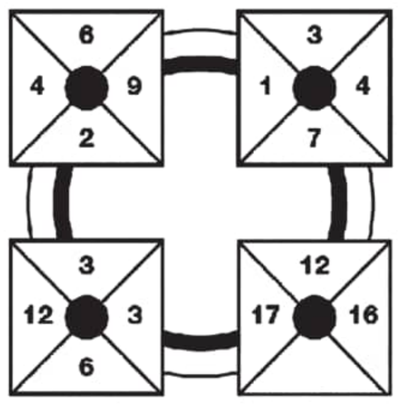
1 C Math; 6 A hoar; 7 Negus; 8 Niter; 9 An cry

DOWN

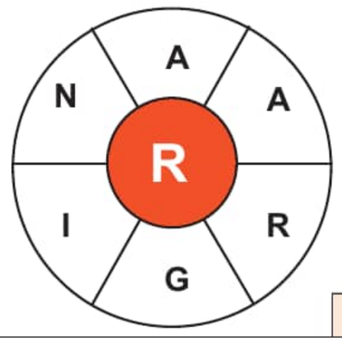
1 Gamic; 2 An are; 3 Noter; 4 Runch; 5 Shy at

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the empty segment?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7		2		9		1	
		6				3		
8			7		5			9
		8	3		2	6		
	3						4	
		2	4		6	7		
7			5		1			8
		1				4		
	4		6		7		3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

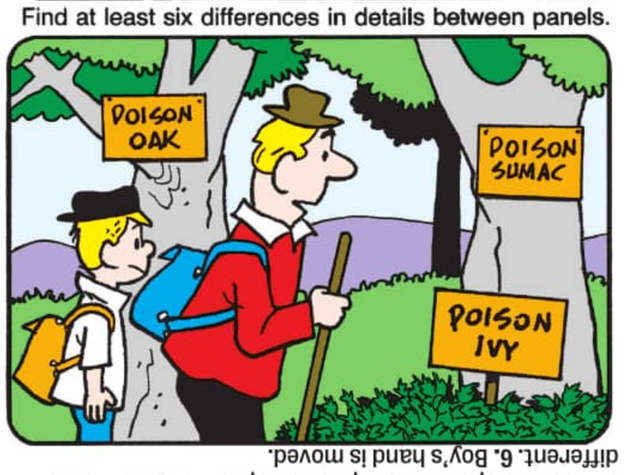
Easy = 15
2 4 4 9

Medium = 26
2 3 6 6

Hard = 7
2 3 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is larger. 2. Backpack is larger. 3. Mouth is open. 4. Backpack strap is moved. 5. Hat is different. 6. Boy's hand is moved.

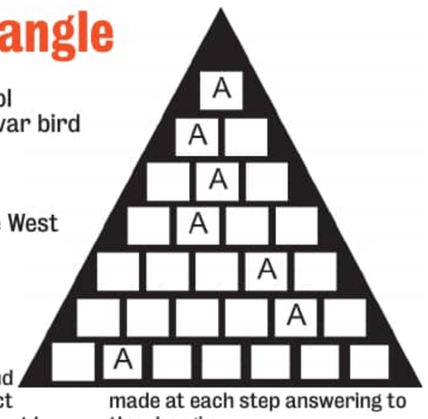
Riddler

Insert a number to complete the words given below. Example: H _ _ _ _ _ = Height

opp - - - nt
sen - - - ce
st - - -
- - - - r

Alpha triangle

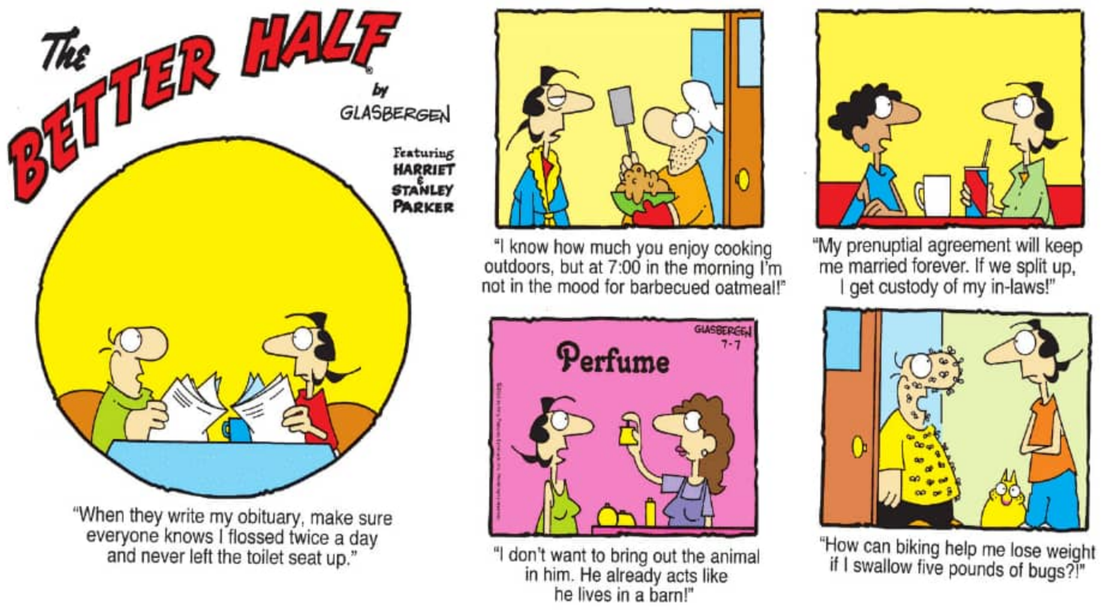
1 Blood gr.
2 Aluminium symbol
3 Gujarat's _ Sarovar bird sanctuary
4 Mariner's path
5 Gather
6 East Indian state West
7 Bracelets



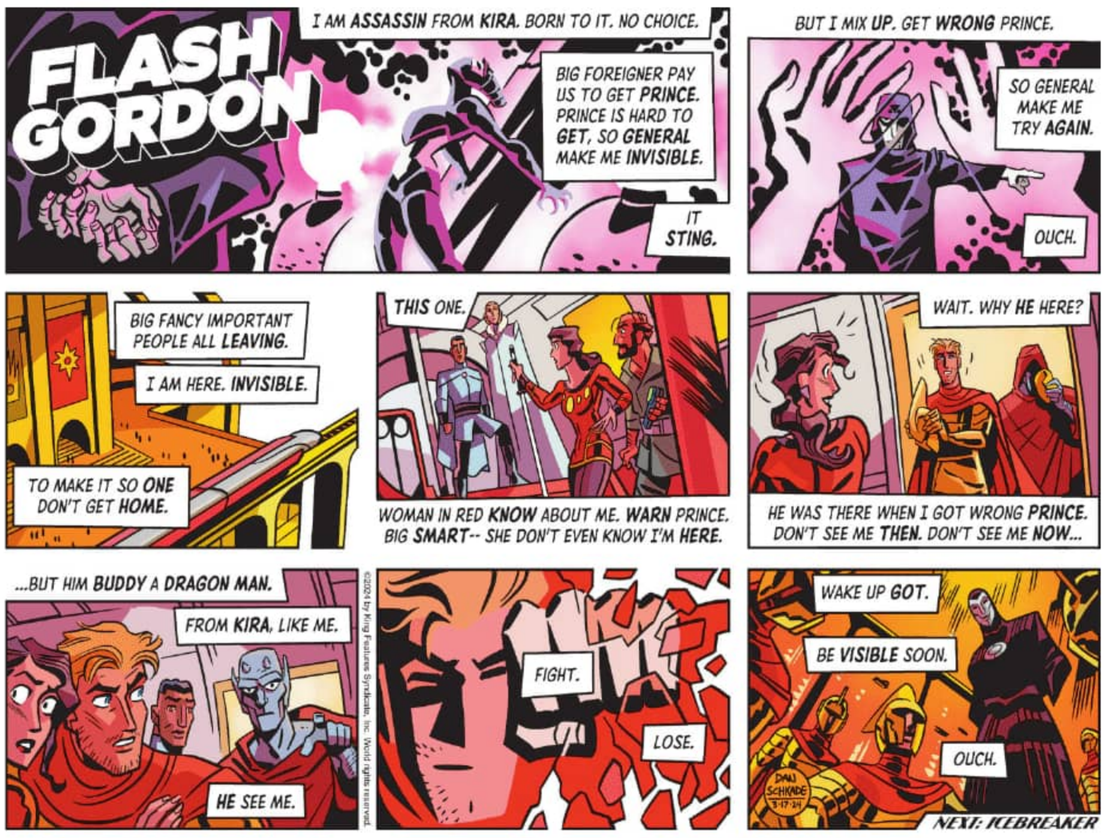
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

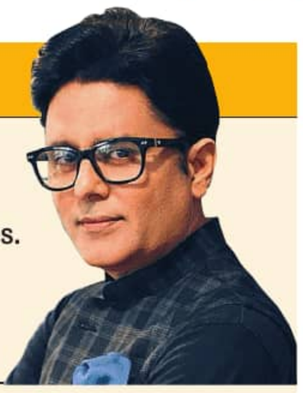

The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"When they write my obituary, make sure everyone knows I flossed twice a day and never left the toilet seat up."
"I know how much you enjoy cooking outdoors, but at 7:00 in the morning I'm not in the mood for barbecued oatmeal!"
"My prenuptial agreement will keep me married forever. If we split up, I get custody of my in-laws!"
Perfume
"I don't want to bring out the animal in him. He already acts like he lives in a barn!"
"How can biking help me lose weight if I swallow five pounds of bugs?!"

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
HOLDING! HOLDING!
THROW THE FLAG!
THROW THE FLAG!
THROW THE FLAG!
THROW THE FLAG!
I JUST WENT TO GIVE WREN A HUG GOODNIGHT, AND SHE YELLED, "FRODO FWAG!"
HOW STRANGE.


FLASH GORDON
I AM ASSASSIN FROM KIRA. BORN TO IT. NO CHOICE.
BIG FOREIGNER PAY US TO GET PRINCE. PRINCE IS HARD TO GET, SO GENERAL MAKE ME INVISIBLE.
IT STING.
BUT I MIX UP. GET WRONG PRINCE.
SO GENERAL MAKE ME TRY AGAIN.
OUCH.
BIG FANCY IMPORTANT PEOPLE ALL LEAVING.
I AM HERE. INVISIBLE.
TO MAKE IT SO ONE DON'T GET HOME.
THIS ONE.
WAIT. WHY HE HERE?
WOMAN IN RED KNOW ABOUT ME. WARN PRINCE. BIG SMART-- SHE DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M HERE.
HE WAS THERE WHEN I GOT WRONG PRINCE. DON'T SEE ME THEN. DON'T SEE ME NOW...
...BUT HIM BUDDY A DRAGON MAN.
FROM KIRA, LIKE ME.
HE SEE ME.
FIGHT.
LOSE.
WAKE UP GOT.
BE VISIBLE SOON.
OUCH.
NEXT: ICEBREAKER

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Ambition rises with purpose today. Love feels empowering and mutually supportive. Career goals gain momentum as confidence attracts opportunities. Financial growth follows decisive action. Travel aligns with work or personal expansion. At home, you feel proud of what you've built. Your determination inspires others while reminding you that success and fulfilment can coexist beautifully.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Do something different this weekend, escaping daily worries and remembering life's fun. Ignore claims you're avoiding reality; maybe you are, and that's perfectly fine for now without guilt or explanation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today boosts finances now, bringing luck, but don't justify reckless risks. Stay sensible, invest carefully, and keep ample cash reserves untouched for security during unpredictable markets, cycles, phases ahead always.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Strong planetary links favor new beginnings, especially career related ventures. Spending heavily to launch is acceptable, because long term rewards justify the initial outlay and future growth, stability, success, confidence.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Bold action feels unfamiliar, yet the planets empowers courage now. Be daring, stay optimistic, and you'll push past limits, achieving far more than expected this weekend with energy, momentum, confidence, enthusiasm.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Socialize widely this weekend and exchange ideas freely. You'll find many share your vision, and collaborating together could create meaningful projects with lasting impact, value, purpose, momentum, trust, unity, success.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Fear of falling won't stop you now. Ambition demands risk taking, so aim higher, climb boldly, and pursue goals relentlessly without hesitation or apology, doubt, fearlessness, courage, drive, focus, resolve.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Career matters shine this weekend, so promote your skills confidently. Ensure decision makers recognize your value, because demonstrating usefulness attracts generous rewards, appreciation, advancement, trust, influence, support, opportunities, success, recognition.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Blunt honesty may unsettle some people this weekend. Those receptive gain clarity, while the fragile resist truths needed to fix problems and move forward decisively, bravely, constructively, together, now, ahead.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A proposal sounds exciting, yet careful review reveals hidden risks. Proceed anyway if you choose, but awareness ensures you're prepared for consequences, surprises, twists, challenges, outcomes, impacts, results, ahead confidently.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You're doubting a popular plan, but pessimism clouds judgment. Try it anyway; the challenge may prove exactly what you need now for growth, renewal, motivation, confidence, resilience, progress, success ahead.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Follow your own path confidently and ignore opinions entirely. Your self belief is strong now, and trusting it guarantees impressive results, independence, originality, courage, momentum, clarity, freedom, success, fulfilment, triumph.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Energized planetary links highlight your charisma this weekend. Lead boldly, showcase talent, and others will eagerly follow your vibrant example with enthusiasm, passion, confidence, momentum, joy, magnetism, flair, warmth, success.

www.sundeepkochar.com

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Bhagamma, 12 years, Kaggadasalpuru Govt School

Agasthya Ajay Murthy, 7 years, Nationa Public School

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M After adding 4, let them be x, 4x
Now subtract 8:
$(x-4) - 8 : (4x-4) - 8 = 1 : 8$
$(x-12) : (4x-12) = 1 : 8$
$8x - 96 = 4x - 12$
$4x = 84$
Required numbers 17, 80
$x = 21;\ x - 4 = 17;\ 4x - 4 = 80$

QUOTE UNCODE Your computer needn't be the first thing your see in the morning and the last thing you see at night.

C	A	R	N	Y
I	N	E	R	T
G	E	N	U	S
A	R	O	H	A
M	A	T	C	H

FAST FIVE

RIDDLER Opponent, Sentence, Stone, Flyer

STRIKE OUT

P	I	S	C	E	S		H	O	B	B	L	E	D	
O		E		L		F	Y	N		E		L		
I	N	V	A	D	E		R	E	A	L	I	A		
N		E		X	M	A	S		D		N			
T	A	R		A	P	E	X		H	A	N	D		
Y		E	D	G	E	D		R	A	M	U	S		
	R		D	E	L	I	G	H	T		B			
A	H	E	A	D		C	R	E	E	K		F		
T	O	N	Y		G	A	E	A		E	G	O		
H		L		O	L	L	A		R		R			
E	N	I	G	M	A		T	A	N	N	I	C		
N		S		I	D	O		D		O		E		
A	S	T	U	T	E		S	O	U	S	E	D		

QUICK

S	E	L	D	O	M		S	O	U	E	A	K		
O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R		K	O	S	I		
I	E	R		E		A	R	T	H	E	N	S		
H		E		C		S		A		R	E	D		
T	O	W	I	N	G		F	A	I	R	E	R		
A		A		E		N		I				A		
V		R	I	P	P	I	N	G		K	E	Y		
A		D		U		G		R		L				
K	E	P	T		P	R	I	Y	A	N	K	A		
R		O		A		L		E		N		Y		
A	C	T	U	A	L		A	N	Y	W	A	Y		

MENSA PUZZLE
15. Each segment in the lower right box equals the sum of the values in the corresponding segments of the other squares.

BULL'S EYE
agar, aria,
ARRAIGN, grain, grin, rain, rang, raring, ring

SUDOKU

3	7	5	2	6	9	8	1	4
9	2	6	8	1	4	3	5	7
8	1	4	7	3	5	2	6	9
4	5	8	3	7	2	6	9	1
6	3	7	1	9	8	5	4	2
1	9	2	4	5	6	7	8	3
7	6	3	5	4	1	9	2	8
5	8	1	9	2	3	4	7	6
2	4	9	6	8	7	1	3	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Al, Nal, Lane, Glean, Bengal, Bangles.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
$4 - 2 + 9 + 4 = 15$
Medium
$6 \times 3 + 6 + 2 = 26$
Hard
$2 + 5 \times 3 / 3 = 7$

KAKURO

			9	5			9	2	7					
			7	1	6		7	9						
			2	8	9		4	1						
		1	3	4	8		8	6	9					
		9	7	6	22		2	6	9	28				
		10	19	6	9	22	1	7	4	2	15	11	7	
		13	2	1	5			16	8	5	2	13	9	
			16	8	5			16	10	13	9	7	16	
			9	5	4	12		22	12	9	7	16	1	3
			7	2	9			4	9	12		7	2	1

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Formula of violence

Kareena, Ananya, Kalyani share their views on rising violence in films

Actors Kareena Kapoor Khan, Kalyani Priyadarshan and Ananya Panday recently shared their thoughts on toxic masculinity and rising violence in films during a discussion with The Hollywood Reporter.

Kareena Kapoor Khan believes that the shift toward intense and violent storytelling cannot be attributed to masculinity alone. According to the actor, audience preferences play a major role in shaping the direction of cinema.

Kareena also noted that the box-office performance of such films often encourages filmmakers to repeat similar formulas.

"Right now, this trend, and I call this a trend because I don't think it is going to last," she emphasises, "It is what's [considered] practical, and every scene has to be sensational or shocking. You can show spectacle with violence, and people think that's what's selling cinema. It still scares me a little, but I believe it's a trend."

Ananya Panday echoed similar concerns about the growing repetition in mainstream cinema. According to her, success often leads to imitation within the industry. She explained that once a particular film formula works at the box office, several projects tend to follow the same pattern, "It feels repetitive in that sense, everyone wants to make what's working."

Kalyani Priyadarshan believes that one important step toward the major change lies in increasing female representation behind the camera.

—ETimes

Lost and found

Actress Lily Collins' engagement ring is back on her finger after three years, as it was once stolen.

The "Emily in Paris" actress shared on her Instagram Stories that she was left "speechless" after the jewelers were able to get her "original" rose-cut diamond ring back to her after three years.

"Having this home means SO much to us," she wrote across a selfie in which she showed off her ring, reports people.com.

"I'm still speechless its back in my finger." The actress' engagement ring, in addition to her wedding ring and other belongings, were stolen from a West Hollywood hotel on May 6, 2023.

At the time, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department confirmed that officers responded to a burglary call at a hotel after a well-known female celebrity's belongings were stolen from a secured locker.

The actress was staying at the hotel when she went to the spa and locked up her belongings, sources told and when she returned, her items were gone. The report for the items stolen was categorized as "over $10,000."

Collins and her husband Charlie McDowell got engaged in September 2020.

—IANS

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